President’s Message:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had great holiday with friends, love ones and the family. We had a wonderful Christmas Party hosted by The Edwards Barn in Nipomo, a big Thank you to Angela, Mavi and David for donating the barn for our party. We have a lot of plans for this year, lots of suggestions from members at the party.

We are planning trips to American Canyon, Parkfield, Indians and Santa Cruz. We have our Sawyer and a Crosscut class coming up soon. Our Class A drivers prep has been requested again so we will have one in South County. Don’t forget our trip to Cal Poly Horse Barn with Lou on Jan. 31, 2020. We will be carpooling due to parking situation.

Our unit helped with the CCCMB Work Day for the Canyon View Trail lookout turned out great. Rich Phelps, Mike and Karen Larson, Kathy Longacre and many more helped with the leg work on Saturday. While Kathleen Phelps, Rick Jacobson, Greg Feinberg, Otis Calef and Beth packed the tables, tie rail, cement and water to the site on Saturday. I had the tough job of riding drag, and the packers did a great job, I didn’t have to stop and pick anything up! Many others members, like Kathy Redden, came on Sunday to help put the tables together. This was a great project with the CCCMB unit and BCHC-LP; it is a great trail to ride. Thank you all.

Lastly, please remember to turn in your volunteer hours by end of January!

Please try to encourage people to join BCHC Los Padres even if it’s just to support as we are a state wide organization that lobbies for trails and other issues that concern trail users of all types.

See you on the trails....

Shirley

General/Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 15 (General) @ Roundtable Pizza
6915 El Camino Real, Atascadero

Speaker: Julie Heller from Mid Valley / Topic: Packing Internship

Wednesday, February 19 (Board Mtg—all members welcome)
Place TBD
Los Padres Unit 2020
Backcountry Horsemen
Officers and Committees

President – Shirley Rasmussen
shirleyjras@gmail.com
805.610.0934

Vice President – Greg Feinberg
feinberg.greg@gmail.com
805.458.2879

Secretary - Kaye Bruns
kowgrl@charter.net
661.803.5075

Treasurer – Mike Larson
rocky3lars@yahoo.com
802.610.6115

Education/Public Lands – Jennifer Best
jenpete@aol.com
805.345.9066

Newsletter – Kris Pimentel
krisp22@charter.net

Programs – Shirley Rasmussen
shirleyjras@gmail.com
805.610.0934

Forest Service Liaison –
Melody Fountain
melodyandbob@gmail.com
805.438.5384

Membership – Kaye Bruns
kowgrl@charter.net
661.803.5075

Merchandise –
Angela Thompson
thompson_bros@yahoo.com
805.331.2313

SENSE OF HUMOR TIME!!!

YOU THINK

AND YES...I AM AFRAID OF A SMALL PLASTIC BAG.

YOU’RE GONNA CATCH ME?

Philosophy and Purpose of Backcountry Horsemen of California

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses and mules in America’s back country and wilderness.

To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance

To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new units of the organization.

Concerned Men and Women Dedicated to Gentle Use of California Trails and Back Country

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS!  A GENTLE REMINDER OF MEMBERSHIPS COMING DUE FOR THE FOLLOWING -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Past Expirations</th>
<th>Jan/Feb 2020 Expirations</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last</strong></td>
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<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
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CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE:

http://www.bchc-lpunit.org

Save as your favorites!
Trail Updates and Workdays

Copied from Atascadero Horsemen Club with permission from Kathy Redden

Horse Camp at River Road – Santa Margarita Lake

On December 6, nine of us went to River Road Trail Head and installed two gates (drive through and pass through) and re-strung and cleaned up much of the existing boundary fence. Thanks to those who came out for the workday: Patti and Fred Mensing, Kaye Bruns, Greg Feinberg, Bob Skinner, Meichelle Callerman, Wes Womble, and Bob and Sharon Thomson. The camp area was moved the following week by Parks maintenance staff so the next step is to install the six corrals and picnic tables (which will be ordered soon).

We are scheduling the next workday for Saturday, February 1 at 9am. We will install the corrals and finish re-stringing the boundary fence. If you are available to help, please let me know so that if there changes to the plan, I can let you know. For the workday, wear long pants and long sleeves and sturdy shoes, and bring gloves, water and a hat. We'll determine what tools are needed.

CCCMB Workdays

**Rinconada** -- January 18 at 9:00am: This will be a combined CCCMB/BCHC workday. Focus will be on brushing and clearing drains. BCHC will be providing Lunch. Contact Melody @ 805.720.5685 if you are coming so we have a number for the food.

**Super Bowl Sunday at Montana de Oro** – February 2 at 8am. Meet at the Park Headquarters above Spooner’s Cove.

Pismo Preserve Update

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo is having the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pismo Preserve in mid-January. The official opening date has not yet been set but it is anticipated to be by the end of January. Those who have driven on Hwy 101 through Pismo can see fencing, retaining walls and restrooms. This project has taken a lot more effort (and dollars) than originally anticipated and is so close to opening for the public – it’s very exciting! Information about equestrian parking and access will be provided as I learn more.

SLOPOST is contributing monies to fund Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) personnel to work on the Sapwi trail extension. The County will facilitate with getting tools and crew, plus supplies across the lake and provide the campground for the crew to get many days of work done at one time. LPFA will do brushing "only" to open back up the trail corridor so that volunteers and staff can access the trail to work on the trail in the future and determine the tasks that are going to need more skilled labor. Dates have not yet been set for this work to begin. A lot of work will be required moving forward to get the trail complete and open. We are very appreciative of the support by Kathy Longacre and SLOPOST to help keep this project moving forward.

Reminder: When the trails are wet, please stay off them!
Give them time to dry out before riding.

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

Please send your articles, stories and ads to Kris @ krisp22@charter.net

Please send in a Word document and JPEG picture format. Deadline for BCHC Los Padres Newsletter is February 20 for Mar/Apr 2020 edition. This newsletter is published six (6) times per year, in January, March, May, July, September and November.
Though many of you haven’t met me, I’m a pretty active rider and volunteer. I live nearly adjacent to Los Padres National Forest, ride Montana de Oro, Pismo and Morro Bay, the riverbeds of North County and did a gymkhana or three when my daughter was riding the events. I’m also a hiker, a mountain biker, a four-wheeler, a fisherman and lifelong camper. I was raised to understand all these interests share a common theme: if we want places to play in special places, we need to volunteer to maintain them. Last summer, I had the best opportunity ever to balance my interests and record ample volunteer hours.

Though my volunteer service to California trails began earlier in the year here on the Central Coast, in July an opportunity arose for me to serve as paid camp host in the Sierra National Forest. Of course I jumped at the chance to be paid to camp (and clean restrooms, register campers and act occasionally as dorm mother to less mature campers of any age). Afterall, it would put me six hours’ drive closer to a variety of wilderness trailheads I could explore on any given afternoon and every single weekend.

I’ve done some solo packing into the Sierra’s Dinkey Lakes Wilderness in recent years, but the hosting position put me in line to further explore the Dinkey as well as test the waters in John Muir Wilderness, Ansel Adams Wilderness and more of the Sierra National Forest backcountry. The lakes and meadows were spectacular and every ride was a reconnaissance mission with few to no riders or hikers along the way. In six weekends of backcountry exploration, I came across seven other individuals, all on foot, and two leashed dogs. I witnessed indescribable beauty and peace and benefited from historically significant trail builds clearly completed by skilled hands.

Picking up volunteer hours was a cinch. It started with repairing fence in the pasture where I would keep my horse part-time, the largest single undertaking with local cowboys offering help, but never showing up to follow through with this crazy woman and her fence tool. It took two full weekend days and every afternoon after work for a week to get that old fence back in order. Honestly, it would have been quicker and easier to build an entirely new fence, but I didn’t have the supply funds so I made-do with donations of my own: a spool of wire I picked up in town, T-stakes from our pile at home, my own tools, energy and sweat. My “skilled work” column numbers got a good boost, my horse had a home, and campers and I enjoyed her company.

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From here on in, the volunteer efforts were, well, almost effortless and exemplified just how easy volunteer hours can be. As I was voluntarily reporting back to the volunteer rangers at High Sierra Ranger Station any trail conditions I found, every hour on the trail counted in my “trail recon” column. Inevitably, I’d find trash, an illegal fire ring full of broken glass, a downed sign, a downed tree. It didn’t take much space to carry with me a compass, GPSr and maps that helped me resituate downed signs, plastic bags to gather trash and stuff in my saddlebag, a hand saw to trim branches that blocked the trail. Most of these incidental efforts required little time to fix or clean up, adding to my “basic work” column.

*Picture: Maddie, AQHA Skip’s Pine Blossom, takes a breather among Graveyard Lakes during a day of recon and trailwork in John Muir Wilderness. Photo by Jennifer Best, BCHC-Los Padres Unit*
Continued — Working Easy
Jennifer Best / BCHC-Los Padres Unit

Back at camp, during my personal time, I rolled rocks in the river to create a better horse/human crossing to access a trail to the ranger station. It was a mixed reward: volunteer hours, service to campers and myself, and a great way to cool off on hot afternoons for someone who just can’t seem to sit still. I picked up trash on my walks up the trails for after-work dips in the local lakes. I gathered for the lost-and-found box folks’ clothes from the hot springs where, presumably during their late-night dips, they’d somehow forgotten to grab their pants on the way out.

Volunteering doesn’t have to be this involved. For those who can’t get out to ride, there are newsletters to edit and distribute, paperwork to be done, volunteer hours to gather, membership chair duties to coordinate. For those ready to hit the trail, simply keep an eye out for work that needs to be done. Report it back to our unit, local rangers or facilities managers. There’s your recon. If you have the skills, time and energy, fix it yourself; there’s the problem solved and some basic trailwork hours recorded. Most of all, record these hours and turn them in to our volunteer coordinator to help BCHC better quantify the value of having mounted volunteers on the trails. We use them. Let’s show we care about them.

WHO HAS BEEN KEEPING THE BOOKS?
By Melody Fountain

Cheryl McGray faithfully served as treasurer for the Los Padres Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California for the last 19 years. Cheryl is not a horse woman, but she has been an important member! Cheryl is married to John McGray, who has been part of the Los Padres Unit since it’s beginning in 1990. When John became President of the unit in 2000, Cheryl became a member to support John and be involved in something together. Turned out the elected Treasurer failed to show up, so Cheryl stepped in and has kept the books from January 2000 until the end of December, 2019.

Cheryl jumped in with both feet and became the go to person for the Units annual Camp-n-Ride event held every October. She learned how to purchase food for a large group and handled the sign-ups and money generated by all of the unit events. The famous Beans and Broccoli Salad, which became expected fare at Camp-n-Ride for many years, were recipes from her mother in law. Cheryl always made giant pots of beans and big bowls of salad while the rest of us were out riding our horses.

Always up for a good time, Cheryl enjoyed her Backcountry Horsemen friendships on the Central Coast and throughout the state. She attended many State meetings and State Rendezvous in Turlock, Madera and Red Bluff, and of course the ones in Santa Maria and Paso Robles! One of her favorite activities was listening to Dave Stamey at Live Oak Camp. Another fun activity was Dutch Oven Cooking!

I have to say that Cheryl’s dedication to the Los Padres Unit and her ability to keep our Unit on the right track while still having a good time has been impressive. I count Cheryl and John McGray as good friends of mine and the Los Padres Unit. THANK YOU for a job well done.
Los Padres Unit Merchandise
Contact Angela Thompson 831.331.2313 or thompson_bros@yahoo.com

Check the website for availability
Merchandise is a non-profit status and provides for our unit members to purchase and display our unit’s logo and promote membership for BCHC-Los Padres Unit. Please help and support your unit.

Newsletter Alert!!!
As your newsletter editor, it has come to my attention from some members they are not receiving the newsletter via email. If your email has changed, you need to contact the membership chair (see your officers listing on page 2) for the officer to update their records. It’s not automatic. Also, for your enjoyment, the newsletter is ALWAYS posted on the website. Did you know we have a website? It’s http://bchc-lpunit.org/ Did you know we have Facebook too? Check it out! When the newsletter is ready, the information is posted on Facebook and posted on the website for your enjoyment and keeping you updated with activities from the Los Padres Unit. We are trying to keep everybody informed as much as possible—thank you!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING
The LPFA will once again be hosting our annual Volunteer Training on January 25 at the VWR Headquarters off Paradise Road. We’ll share more information in the coming weeks. LPFA will be scheduling a First Aid Training in the Santa Barbara area either January 4 or January 5.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Coming this January, Mid Valley Unit will be hosting the BCH Leadership Training for the central California section of the state (but open to any and all BCH members from around the state who wish to attend). The date will be Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 9:00 am, and the venue will be Carl and Julie Perry’s Party Barn in Hilmar CA. There is no fee to attend, and a great Dutch oven lunch is included. The meeting will conclude early to mid-afternoon. RSVP to me, Michael King at 209-606-8323, email mickngig@sbcglobal.net, or Dennis Serpa at 209-531-575, email dmserpa@velociter.net.

PACKING TABLES FOR CANYON TRAIL AT MONTATA DE ORO
Bits and Pieces

Riding Warehouse
Will now give a 15% discount to our members when we order using the BCHC discount code. Shop today! Please contact Shirley for the discount code.
shirleyjras@gmail.com or 805.610.0934

If you use ZamZuu shopping site; BCHC earns “easy money”

EASY TO GET AND PRINT YOUR CAMPFIRE PERMITS ON LINE!
Here’s the link -
http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/

Don’t forget to check these websites for all the important things being done by Backcountry Horsemen!
http://www.bcha.org/
http://www.bchcalifornia.org

Bits and Pieces

NewsLetter Advertisement FREE — Members can place a business card size ad FREE! Non-members $30.00 for the year (6 issues) for a quarter OR smaller page ad.
Backcountry Horsemen of California

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Change

☐ Antelope Valley  ☐ Kern Sierra  ☐ North Bay  ☐ Santa Ana River
☐ Eastern Sierra  ☐ Lake-Mendo  ☐ Pacific Crest  ☐ Sequoia
☐ High Country  ☐ Los Padres  ☐ Redshank Riders  ☐ Shasta Trinity
☐ High Sierra  ☐ Mid Valley  ☐ Redwood  ☐ Sierra Freepackers
☐ Kern River Valley  ☐ Mother Lode  ☐ San Diego  ☐ Sutter Buttes
☐ Top of the State

DCTE (your Membership)

MEMBER’S NAME – No Business Names, Print Clearly  SPOUSE/Co-MEMBER’S NAME – MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City  State  Zip Code (full 9 digits if known)  Area Code  Phone number

Email Address: ___________________________ (please print legibly)

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (tax deductible) $____________

Total Enclosed: _________________________ Check No. _________________________

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check one)

☐ Individual $50  ☐ Family $60  ☐ 2 Year Individual $90  ☐ 2 Year Family $110  ☐ 3 Year Individual $125  ☐ 3 Year Family $150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) $15 – Benefactor $100 – Patron $250 – Mt. Whitney $500

Associate Memberships: An Additional $15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: _________________________ $15.00/Unit

Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: _________________________ $15.00/Unit

Unit Name (from above list)

Add additional choices here

Please clip form along dashed line and keep the below portion for your records

Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.
BCHC members may NOT hold more than ONE active Parent Membership.

* A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names who share a common address.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

These special Memberships are only available to persons already holding Parent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having selected Parent Unit affiliation.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at bchcalifornia.org or call (775) 463-3634

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

☐ Individual Membership  $ 50.00
☐ Family (Shared) Membership  $ 60.00
☐ Young Adult (18-25 years old)  $ 15.00
☐ 2 Year Individual  $ 90.00
☐ 2 Year Family  $ 110.00
☐ 3 Year Individual  $ 125.00
☐ 3 Year Family  $ 150.00
☐ Benefactor Membership  $ 100.00
☐ Patron Membership  $ 250.00
☐ Mt. Whitney Membership  $ 500.00

On that form, I also requested: ___________________________ Associate Memberships $_____

My Total Remittance: $_________

My Check Number: _________________________

Date Mailed: _________________________

Verification of BCHC membership is available via (1) BCHC unit president’s reports (2) BCHC membership chair reports (3) a self-addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form or (4) a valid email address
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Board Meeting Officer’s Only—6pm @ Kris’s &amp; Kaye’s Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11-12</td>
<td>BCHC—LP/USFS Sawyer Class (preregister: <a href="mailto:feinberg.greg@gmail.com">feinberg.greg@gmail.com</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>General Meeting—6pm @ Roundtable Pizza in Atascadero</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>Cal Poly Equine Center Tour—10am (please carpool)</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Board Meeting—6pm</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>General Meeting—6pm</td>
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<td>March 27-29</td>
<td>Rendezvous—Red Bluff, CA</td>
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<td>TBA—Spring Campout</td>
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<td>Board Meeting—6pm</td>
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<td>May 19-24</td>
<td>Mule Days—Bishop, CA</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
<td>General Meeting—6pm</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Christmas Party</td>
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